

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sallie L. Hilvers Chief Communications Officer (513) 632-7681 Cell 520-0954

July 18, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRO PROVIDES FREE RIDES TO RESIDENTS USING COOL CENTERS

CINCINNATI – In conjunction with the City of Cincinnati's heat emergency, Metro will offer residents who use the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's cool centers free rides to help offset transportation costs.

Residents who go to the cool centers to escape the heat can ask for a free ride pass to go home and a second free ride pass if they need a free ride back to the cool center the next day. Free rides passes will be distributed as long as the heat emergency is in effect.

"People need to play it safe during the heat emergency," Mayor Mark Mallory said. "Metro is stepping up to the plate and helping people stay out of the heat and use the cool centers."

"Bus fare should not be an issue for anyone who needs to go to a cool center," said Metro's General Manager Mike Setzer. "Metro is a community service, and we are here to help in this emergency."

Metro is a non-profit pubic service of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, providing about 22 million rides in Greater Cincinnati.

#

SORTA's Mission

To provide cost-effective, efficient, quality mass transit services within available resources to enable people to access their chosen activities in our community.

Metro is a non-profit public service of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority